



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 25 July 2012

Top Stories

- Insufficient oxygen supply caused some F-22 fighter pilots to get dizzy and disoriented when flying the plane, the Pentagon said July 24. The announcement signaled restrictions that limited F-22 flights for about a year would gradually be lifted. – *Reuters* (See item [11](#))
- Skimmers could use a new, difficult-to-spot technology that uses a wafer-thin card reading device inserted directly into the card acceptance slot, according to two recent reports by the European ATM Security Team. – *Krebs on Security* (See item [13](#))
- Miami-Dade County, Florida’s three main water and sewer treatment plants and 7,700 miles of pipelines are so outdated it would take an initial installment of more than \$1.1 billion just to replace the “most deteriorated vulnerable sections” of the system, a new study found. – *Miami Herald* (See item [27](#))
- At least 60 people were hospitalized after they were sickened after eating at a Denver homeless shelter July 22. Officials were trying to pinpoint the source of the outbreak. – *Food Safety News* (See item [55](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *July 24, Daily Environment Report* – (National) **Significant number of power plants did not obtain new source review permits, GAO says.** A significant number of coal-fired electricity generating units have not obtained new source review permits as required, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported July 23. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigated 831 coal-fired units since 1999 through its power plant enforcement initiative, and the agency has alleged noncompliance at 467 units through notices of violation, court complaints, or settlements, GAO said. Under the Clean Air Act’s new source review permitting program, new and modified industrial sources must obtain permits that require emissions limits and the installation of emissions control equipment. GAO said new source review data are not complete because EPA has not yet investigated all coal-fired units, and EPA’s determinations of compliance have changed over time. The report underlined the complexity of ensuring compliance with the new source review program, which EPA, States, and local agencies do on a case-by-case basis.
Source: <http://www.bna.com/significant-number-power-n12884910797/>
2. *July 24, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **158,000 without power as severe storms hit Chicago area.** About 158,000 people remained without power July 24 as strong thunderstorms wreaked havoc in the Chicago area during the morning commute. The hardest hit areas were Aurora and Rockford where 53,000 customers were without power. In the Chicago area, 44,000 customers were without power. In the north region of ComEd’s service area, 20,000 customers were without power, a utility spokesman said. About 41,000 customers were affected in the southern part of the region. Pink and Green line, and South Shore Line trains experienced delays because of debris on the right-of-ways, said the Chicago Transit Authority. Airlines cancelled 100 flights at O’Hare International Airport, with delays for all inbound and outbound flights. Delays were also reported at Chicago Midway International Airport.
Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/13964435-418/story.html>
3. *July 24, Reuters* – (Louisiana; International) **BP, Transocean faulted for lax guidelines in Gulf spill report.** BP and Transocean Ltd lacked clear guidelines for key tests to ensure the ill-fated Macondo well was safely sealed before it ruptured and triggered the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, U.S. safety investigators said. The preliminary report from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), delivered at a public hearing in Houston July 24, puts the spotlight back on missteps highlighted in prior investigations as BP faces potential civil and criminal penalties over the incident. The disaster began April 20, 2010, when a surge of methane gas known as a “kick” sparked an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11 men. The platform sank 2 days later. Investigators at the CSB focused on crucial tests run by drill workers in the days ahead of the blowout to determine if the Macondo well was safely sealed with cement. There were no written procedures on how to conduct the test, the CSB said. Also, there were “no written criteria or safe limits defined for determining if the test was a success or warnings on the consequences of deviation from the procedural requirements,” the agency said. Rig workers conducted the negative pressure test

“multiple times in multiple ways,” and inaccurately declared it a success after one unnamed crew member “proposed a novel, unsubstantiated theory about why the test results appeared the way they did,” the CSB said.

Source: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-07-24/business/sns-rt-us-bp-spill-reportbre86n061-20120723_1_biggest-offshore-oil-spill-transocean-spokesman-brian-kennedy-deepwater-horizon

4. *July 23, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Valero shuts all units at Meraux refinery after fire.** Valero Energy Corp said all units at its 125,000 barrel-per-day Meraux, Louisiana refinery were shut following a fire July 22. “A full damage assessment is still under way at the Meraux refinery,” a company spokesman said July 23. The units would remain down while repairs are made to the crude unit and related utilities, he said. The refinery can process medium sour crude oil and produces premium products.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/us-refinery-operations-valero-meraux-idUSBRE86M0X120120723>
5. *July 23, Reuters* – (Michigan; Wisconsin; International) **Enbridge U.S. pipeline has valve failure during test.** A valve fitting on Enbridge’s Inc’s 491,000 barrel a day Line 5 oil pipeline failed during a hydrostatic test July 22, making timing for restarting the pipeline uncertain, an Enbridge spokesman said. The pipeline between Superior, Wisconsin, and Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, has been shut since July 19 for the test. The valve failed near Bay City, Michigan, a spokesman said July 23. “Enbridge crews repaired the valve fitting this morning, and the hydrostatic test was resumed. Line restart has not yet been determined,” he said. The incident was “not a leak, but a valve fitting failure,” the spokesman said. Line 5, which has been consistently oversubscribed as demand for space exceeds capacity, was carrying out the test in advance of a planned expansion of the line’s capacity by 50,000 barrels per day. Enbridge’s pipelines carry the bulk of Canada’s U.S.-bound exports.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/enbridge-pipeline-idUSL2E8IN80N20120723>
6. *July 22, KIII 3 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **Port Acres evacuation lifted.** The Port Arthur Fire Department (PAFD) in Port Arthur, Texas, said an evacuation order along West Port Arthur Road was lifted and the road is reopened July 22, many hours after the second of two explosions at the same pipeline July 21 prompted a mandatory evacuation for some Port Acres residents. The pipeline fire happened near 61st and 62nd Streets. Fire officials said at the start of the fire, flames reached up to 100 feet into the air. A PAFD Public Information Officer Captain said a lightning strike is believed to be the cause of the fire. Officials said the pipeline carries ethylene and is owned by Chevron.
Source: <http://www.kiiitv.com/story/19081568/port-arthur-firefighters-battling-pipeline-fire>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *July 24, Parkersburg News and Sentinel* – (West Virginia) **Building fire under investigation.** Officials continued to investigate the cause of a fire July 20 that destroyed part of the Polymer Alliance Services building in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The Wood County Fire Investigation Team and the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office were on the site July 23. Investigators pinned down where the blaze started, but did not have a dollar figure for the cost of damages to the 250,000-square-foot building. The safety/environmental manager of Polymer Alliance Services reported they were still trying to determine the extent of damages to the polymer products warehouse. Seven employees work there, and local management said less than 5 percent of the facility was affected. Eight fire departments and 74 firefighters responded to the fire.
Source: <http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/563359/Building-fire-under-investigation.html?nav=5061>
8. *July 23, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA fines violators for failure to report chemical data.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued complaints seeking civil penalties against three companies for alleged violations of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the agency reported July 23. The alleged violations involved the companies' failure to comply with EPA's TSCA section 8 Inventory Update Reporting (IUR) rules that require companies to submit accurate data about the production and use of chemical substances manufactured or imported during a calendar year. Under the TSCA, penalties can be assessed up to \$37,500 per day, per violation. The reporting deadline for the 2006 IUR rule ended in March of 2007. EPA's enforcement efforts have led to 43 civil enforcement actions and about \$2.3 million in civil penalties against companies that failed to report required chemical data. The reporting deadline for the 2012 submission period of the Chemical Data Reporting Rule is August 15. The most recent case was against Haldor Topsoe, Inc. of Houston for violating the 2006 IUR rule for 13 chemical substances. The June 20 complaint assessed a proposed penalty of \$202,779, which the company paid July 2.
Source:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/48f1bc6ddd355fe285257a44005e28ec?OpenDocument>
9. *July 19, Reuters* – (National; International) **UK man extradited to Arizona in meth-related chemicals sales case.** A British man was extradited to Arizona from Scotland to face trial for illegally exporting and distributing chemicals used to make methamphetamine in the State, authorities said July 19. He was ordered to remain in custody on suspicion of 82 drug-related crimes pending a September 5 trial. The suspect, who faces charges that include unlawful distribution of listed chemicals and conspiracy, arrived in Arizona July 20. He was indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2007 in Arizona and accused of using his company Web site to illegally sell and distribute two regulated chemicals important in the production of meth. Authorities said he was the founder and owner of an Internet business that provided 6,900 grams of red phosphorus and 4,850 grams of iodine to customers throughout Arizona and across

the United States from August 2004 to August 2006. He and his business partner started in England and then moved to Scotland after being raided by police and changed the company's name, said a grand jury indictment. The partner was charged but has not yet been extradited. The indictment says the firm offered "discreet delivery" of chemicals and purposely misidentified contents of shipments. Investigators obtained emails from customers that noted the illegal nature of the sales, the indictment stated. Officials said the operation supplied at least 70 methamphetamine labs across the United States with nearly 300,000 grams of red phosphorus, and more than 44,000 grams of iodine.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/20/us-usa-methamphetamine-arizona-idUSBRE86J02U20120720>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

10. *July 24, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Peach Bottom investigation: Security officials falsified records.** A federal investigation found that two security officials stationed at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, falsified security post inspection documents, the York Daily Record reported July 24. In response, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a Severity Level IV (very low safety significance) violation to Exelon Nuclear regarding the security post checks and falsified records. Both security officials were removed from duty and no longer work at the plant. January 16 and January 25, 2011, a plant security lead supervisor drove to a security post, called the officer assigned to the post and then, with the officer's consent, forged the officer's signature on a post inspection form, according to the report. In turn, on both dates, the officer forged the supervisor's signature on the post's activity log, indicating the supervisor had conducted a physical inspection rather than a checkup via a phone call. Exelon regulations require lead supervisors to periodically visit each post to ensure an officer is attentive and that the stations are free from distractions, according to the inspection report.

Source: http://www.ydr.com/business/ci_21141082/peach-bottom-investigation-security-officals-falsified-records

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *July 24, Reuters* – (National) **Pentagon concludes oxygen supply behind F-22 breathing problems.** Insufficient oxygen supply caused some F-22 fighter pilots to get dizzy and disoriented when flying the plane, the Pentagon said July 24, signaling at the conclusion of a U.S. Air Force study that restrictions placed on F-22 flights would gradually be lifted. A Pentagon spokesman said an Air Force analysis concluded symptoms of oxygen deprivation among some pilots of the F-22, built by Lockheed Martin Corp., were caused by problems with the oxygen supply delivered to pilots, not oxygen contamination. To fix those problems, the Air Force will replace a valve in flight suits that restricted breathing at high altitude and increased the oxygen supply to pilots by removing an air filter. The Air Force stopped flying the F-22 completely for 5 months in 2011. It resumed flights in September, but restrictions remained on some high-altitude and long-haul flights. Concern about the aircraft flared again in 2012 after two F-22 pilots told reporters they stopped flying the jet due to safety concerns. The Pentagon spokesman said the Air Force would also complete other steps designed to make the planes safer, including installation of a back-up oxygen system. He said altitude restrictions for F-22s could be lifted as early as the fall after a revamped high-altitude garment is tested and other improvements and studies completed. He said the Pentagon would send a squadron of F-22s to a U.S. air base in Japan, after which officials would recommend resuming most long-haul flights by the fighter.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/24/us-usa-planes-oxygen-idUSBRE86N19520120724>

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *July 24, Techworld.com* – (International) **Japanese Finance Ministry uncovers major trojan attack.** Japan's Finance Ministry uncovered evidence of a major trojan cyber-attack on its computer systems that lay undetected for almost 2 years, Techworld.com reported July 24. Ministry officials admitted that the unspecified trojan, which was not detected by the organization's security systems, was probably free to steal confidential data from January 2010 to November 2011, after which the attack suddenly stopped. A total of 123 computers inside the Ministry were infected out of around 2,000 so far checked, which prompted the organization to change hard disks on the affected machines. The latest attack bears the hallmark of a large number that have afflicted Japanese government departments in the last year, seemingly only discovered after the damage was done.
Source:
[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9229534/Japanese_Finance_Ministry_uncovers_major_Trojan_attack?source=rss_security&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+computerworld/s/feed/topic/17+\(Computerworld+Security+News\)&utm_content=Goog](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9229534/Japanese_Finance_Ministry_uncovers_major_Trojan_attack?source=rss_security&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+computerworld/s/feed/topic/17+(Computerworld+Security+News)&utm_content=Goog)

13. *July 24, Krebs on Security* – (International) **ATM skimmers get wafer thin.** Among the latest and most difficult-to-spot skimmer innovations is a wafer-thin card reading device that can be inserted directly into the ATM's card acceptance slot, Krebs on Security reported July 24. The new devices were discussed in two recent reports from the European ATM Security Team (EAST). In both reports, EAST said one unnamed country alerted them about these new kinds of devices. They record data stored on the magnetic stripe on the back of the card as it is slid into a compromised ATM. The insert skimmers require some secondary component to record customers entering their PINs, such as a PIN pad overlay or hidden camera.
Source: <http://krebsonsecurity.com/2012/07/atm-skimmers-get-wafer-thin/>
14. *July 23, Reuters* – (International) **Ex-Anglo Irish finance director charged in fraud probe.** Two former top executives at Anglo Irish Bank were the first to be charged July 23 in a long-running fraud investigation into the failed lender synonymous with Ireland's financial meltdown. The bank's former finance director was charged on 16 counts, chiefly over his role in loans allegedly given to a group of 10 wealthy clients to buy shares in the bank. The former managing director for Ireland faced the same charges. Ireland's Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement and police have been investigating the actions of the bank for more than 3 years, including the loans given to the group, as well as whether deposits were used to mask large withdrawals. Anglo Irish Bank, recently renamed the Irish Banking Resolution Corporation, is slowly being wound down after years of reckless lending left the state with a 30 billion euro bill.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/us-angloirish-idUSBRE86M0TW20120723>
15. *July 23, Supermarket News* – (New York; Connecticut; New Jersey) **Feds charge NYC store owners in fraud scheme.** Federal authorities brought tax fraud charges against the owners of six gourmet food stores based in New York City, saying the operators of Zeytuna, The Amish Market, and Zeytinia Markets failed to report more than \$56 million in gross receipts during the years 2004 through 2009, Supermarket News reported July 23. According to an indictment, two men who together owned a 50 percent or greater stake in stores in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York diverted cash from the books of the stores to pay business expenses, including payrolls, in cash. The owners also skimmed money for their personal use, according to the indictment.
Source: <http://supermarketnews.com/retail-amp-financial/feds-charge-nyc-store-owners-fraud-scheme>
16. *July 23, Accounting Today* – (National) **Audit confirmations helped unmask Peregrine fraud.** Electronic confirmation service Confirmation.com said its system helped uncover a more than \$200 million fraud perpetrated by Peregrine Financial Group's PFGBest unit, Accounting Today reported July 23. Peregrine's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) was charged earlier in July with lying to federal regulators. In a note left behind in a failed suicide attempt, the CEO admitted to using false bank statements to embezzle millions from customer accounts. He had resisted using an electronic confirmation service to verify his firm's statements, but was ultimately forced to allow access under pressure from the firm's regulator, the National Futures

Association, which wanted to use the online system to verify accounts at his and other firms. The day after he allowed the electronic confirmation system to be used at his firm, he was discovered unconscious in his car. The founder and chief marketing officer of Confirmation.com said in a statement the CEO “resisted using our service for months, presumably because he knew that as soon as electronic confirmation went into effect, he would be exposed.”

Source: <http://www.accountingtoday.com/news/audit-confirmations-peregrine-fraud-63382-1.html>

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Transportation Sector

17. *July 24, New York Daily News* – (New York) **School bus driver killed and 6 riders hurt when cement truck barrels out of control in Long Island.** A bus driver was killed and six passengers were injured when a cement truck collided with a school bus in Nassau County, New York, July 23. The truck slammed into a Long Island Rail Road overpass while it was heading south on Oyster Bay Road near Matinecock Court in Locust Valley, Nassau County police said. The bus, owned by the Locust Valley Central School District, was in the northbound lane and in the direct path of the truck, police said. The bus was coming from a summer day camp for developmentally disabled children, WABC 7 New York reported. Four children and a male aide on the bus, and the cement truck driver were taken to area hospitals, authorities said. All six were listed in stable condition, according to WABC 7.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/school-bus-driver-killed-6-riders-hurt-cement-truck-barrels-control-long-island-article-1.1120565>

18. *July 24, WSFA 12 Montgomery* – (Alabama) **All lanes open, I-85 at Shorter, after early morning tanker fire.** All lanes were reopened July 24 after a tanker caught fire at mile marker 23 near Shorter on I-85 in Macon County, Alabama. Authorities evacuated the area because the truck was carrying hazardous materials. The driver of the truck told officers that a tire blew out, which caused sparks and started the fire. A Tallassee police officer was struck while directing traffic at the scene of the accident. Both southbound lanes were shut down while HAZMAT teams were working to get the area cleared.

Source: <http://www.waff.com/story/19095350/tanker-on-fire-in-macon-county>

19. *July 23, Easton Express-Times* – (New Jersey) **Tractor-trailer hits tanker truck in Bloomsbury travel center causing coolant spill, police report.** A tractor-trailer crashed into a tanker truck July 23, spilling a non-hazardous coolant at the Pilot Travel Center on Route 173 in Bloomsbury, New Jersey, State Police at Perryville reported. Police said the crash did not puncture the part of the tanker containing its load of acrylic acid, but the plaza was shut down for almost 8 hours. A coolant used to maintain the material’s temperature spilled from the tanker’s outer shell, police said. The tractor-trailer struck the tanker when its driver attempted to drive around the

vehicle as it was fueling at the pumps, police said. Warren County's HAZMAT crew was onsite, as were the fire marshals from Warren and Hunterdon counties. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had also arrived. State police and the State police emergency management team also responded.

Source: http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/hunterdon-county/express-times/index.ssf/2012/07/tractor-trailer_hits_tanker_tr.html

20. *July 23, Odessa American* – (Texas) **17 vehicles in I-20 pileup**. A 17-vehicle pileup on Interstate 20 in Midland, Texas, triggered by low visibility from a dust storm July 23, resulted in the deaths of two people, according to the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Two more people were transported to a hospital in serious condition. The accident involved a total of 17 vehicles in both the east and westbound lanes, including 5 tractor trailers. The accident occurred about 3 miles east of East Loop 338. Although there were trucks hauling chemicals involved, none were reported to have spilled. Traffic remained closed for both directions of the interstate July 23.

Source: <http://www.oaoa.com/articles/accident-91253-east-multi.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *July 23, WWBT 12 Richmond* – (Virginia) **Bottles with explosive chemicals put in Caroline mailboxes**. Virginia State Police and Caroline County sheriff's deputies were looking for someone who put explosive chemicals inside several mailboxes the weekend of July 21. As Caroline County sheriff's deputies and bomb technicians responded, one of the bottles suddenly exploded as it was being taken as evidence. It was not clear which chemicals may have been inside. The explosions caused minor damage to the mailboxes.

Source: <http://www.nbc12.com/story/19089729/bottles-with-explosive-chemicals-put-in-caroline-mailboxes>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *July 24, Bloomberg News* – (International) **Europe heat wave wilting corn adds to U.S. drought: Commodities**. Heat waves in southern Europe were withering the corn crop and reducing yields in a region that accounts for 16 percent of global exports at a time when U.S. drought already drove prices to a record, Bloomberg News reported July 24. Temperatures in a band running from eastern Italy across the Black Sea region into Ukraine were approximately 5 degrees above normal, U.S. government data show. Corn, now in the pollination phase that creates kernels, risks damage, said the head of market analysis at Bourges, France-based Offre et Demande Agricole. The heat wave

- in Europe is adding to concern about global food supplies as U.S. farmers face the worst drought since 1956, India delays sowing because of a late monsoon, and Australian crops endure below-average rainfall. “Everyone is looking to the U.S., but clearly in Europe we’ll need to import a lot of wheat and corn,” said the head of market analysis at Offre et Demande Agricole, whose company advises about 5,000 farmers. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-23/europe-heat-wave-wilting-corn-adds-to-u-s-drought-commodities.html>
23. *July 24, WBNS 10 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Ammonia leak evacuates building, closes portion of S. Hamilton Rd.** An ammonia leak forced employees of Home City Ice in Groveport, Ohio, to evacuate the building July 23. According to police, a small leak inside a 1,000-gallon container released the ammonia. A hazardous materials crew repaired the leak, and a nearby road that was shut reopened, and employees were allowed back into the building after about 90 minutes. Source: <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2012/07/24/groveport-ammonia-leak-prompts-home-city-ice-evacuation.html>
24. *July 23, Reuters* – (International) **China’s Hunan Ava Dairy recalls tainted infant formula.** China’s Hunan Ava Dairy Co Ltd said July 23 it would recall baby formula sold under its Nanshan Bywise brand after a cancer-causing agent was found in test samples. Five batches of Nanshan Bywise infant milk powder produced between July and December 2011 failed sample tests for aflatoxin, a toxin produced by a fungus that is widespread in nature, the Guangzhou Industrial and Commercial Administration Bureau said in a statement issued July 20. Hunan Ava Dairy said in a statement on its Web site that it would recall all infant formula in question and halt production and distribution. The company said the source of the aflatoxin contamination was due to cows eating moldy feed. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/us-china-dairy-idUSBRE86M0E820120723>
25. *July 23, KIRO 7 Seattle* – (Washington) **Ammonia leak at Rainier Valley Darigold plant closes streets.** An ammonia leak at the Darigold plant in Seattle’s Rainier Valley shut down surrounding streets and caused an evacuation of the building in the morning July 23, the Seattle Fire Department said. Authorities closed two blocks in each direction of the plant. Crews told more than 100 employees to leave the plant. Businesses and people who live nearby were also evacuated. A HAZMAT crew responded. Employees of the plant said there was a cloud of ammonia after a break in a pipe caused the leak. The leaking pipe was repaired, but crews were still cleaning up a large amount of ammonia that leaked and expected to be on site through the afternoon July 23. Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/local/reports-ammonia-leak-south-seattle-darigold-plant/nP2KZ/>
26. *July 20, Bloomberg News* – (International) **Russia quarantines another farming region on African swine fever.** Russia’s regional governor banned the transportation of hogs and the sale of pork in southern Volgograd because of African swine fever outbreaks, making it the second such area under quarantine the week of July 16,

Bloomberg News reported July 20. The transportation of hogs, wild boars, and their meat was banned July 19 in the Tver region because of outbreaks of the virus, according to Russia's food safety authority. Swine fever is a viral disease that is lethal for pigs and harmless for humans, according to the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-20/russia-quarantines-another-farming-region-on-african-swine-fever.html>

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Water Sector

27. *July 24, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Repair bill over \$1 billion to fix crumbling sewage system, Miami-Dade report says.** Miami-Dade County, Florida's three main water and sewer treatment plants and 7,700 miles of pipelines are so outdated it would take an initial installment of more than \$1.1 billion just to replace the "most deteriorated vulnerable sections" of the system, a 5-month internal study by the water & sewer department showed. According to the Miami Herald July 24, the study found that so much corrosion has occurred that initial repairs could take 3 to 8 years. Miami is the 10th largest utility in the nation. The release of the report comes 5 months after a commissioner demanded it and 2 months after federal regulators swarmed Miami demanding repairs and upgrades. Authorities from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are expected to spend up to 4 months discussing how to fix and pay for a system its director said is "being held together by chewing gum." The study shows the majority of the initial fixes — about \$736 million worth of immediate work — is needed for the sewer lines. The aging system is in such disrepair it has ruptured at least 65 times over the past 2 years, spilling more than 47 million gallons of untreated human waste into waterways and streets. Without being specific, the report says some grants should be available but concedes much of the work will likely be paid for through revenue bonds and rate hikes.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/07/24/2909494/repair-bill-over-1-billion-to.html>

28. *July 24, Bay News 9 Tampa* – (Florida) **Boil water alert continues for Oldsmar.** A boil water alert issued for Oldsmar, Florida, stayed in place July 24, Bay News 9 Tampa reported. According to city officials, the alert would continue into July 25. Water quality testing was taking place. The problem was blamed on an 8-inch water main that broke during the weekend of July 21, leaving the area with little or no water. The source of the water leak was found by an area resident.

Source:

http://www.baynews9.com/content/news/baynews9/news/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2012/7/24/boil_water_alert_con.html

29. *July 23, KWQC 6 Davenport* – (Illinois) **Three Illinois towns asked to conserve water.** Due to recent drought, the governor of Illinois asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture for disaster designations in nearly 102 counties. As of July 23, 30 counties had the designation. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources said cities with shallow wells could be at risk as the drought continues. A failed water pump had Media, Raritan, and Roseville in Illinois conserving water. Near Warsaw, crews were repairing a broken pump and well July 20. The mayor said a water tower stores about 2.5 days worth of water for the town but asked citizens to help conserve for 2 days, although the Dallas Rural Water District expected repairs to be complete July 24. Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/story/19093352/three-illinois-towns-asked-to-conserve-water>
30. *July 22, KVAL 13 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Portland issued ‘boil notice’ after E. coli found in reservoir.** E. coli was found in some of west Portland, Oregon’s drinking water, prompting a ‘boil water notice’ July 21. It was lifted early July 22 after further testing. The bacterial contamination was discovered during a routine check of a reservoir. Officials were continuing an investigation into how the reservoir could have been contaminated. Source: <http://www.kpic.com/news/local/Portland-issued-boil-notice-after-Ecoli-found-in-reservoir--163337306.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

31. *July 23, WBAL 11 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Utility room fire forces Anne Arundel County Medical Center evacuation.** Maryland firefighters responded to the Clatinoff Pavilion at the Anne Arundel County Medical Center campus in Annapolis after a strong odor of smoke was noticed July 23. After crews arrived, it was determined the source of the smoke was a fire in a utility room on the third floor. The floor was filled with smoke, including the atrium. When additional equipment was requested, the fire went to three alarms. As a precaution, 15 adults and 13 children were evacuated from the pavilion, while 2 other patients were sheltered in place. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Source: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/maryland/anne-arundel-county/Utility-room-fire-forces-Anne-Arundel-County-Medical-Center-evacuation/-/10137088/15653088/-/ekdg76/-/index.html>
32. *July 23, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Fire damages Wichita treatment center.** About 20 adult residents at a drug and alcohol treatment center in Wichita, Kansas, were moved to temporary shelters after a fire damaged the center July 23. A Wichita fire department spokesman said the fire apparently was started by power cords and caused about \$25,000 in damage. The Red Cross temporarily provided shelter to the center’s residents. Source: <http://cjonline.com/news/2012-07-23/fire-damages-wichita-treatment-center>

33. *July 23, KMOX 1120 AM St. Louis* – (Illinois) **Hospital worker charged with stealing patients’ identities.** According to a federal indictment, a hospital worker working in the radiology department of an unidentified southern Illinois hospital stole information from hospital charts and computer records, mainly targeting elderly victims, KMOX 1120 AM St. Louis reported July 23. She was accused of passing that information to an accomplice, who applied for new credit cards in the names of hospital patients. The two then went on shopping sprees, according to the charges. The hospital worker could face up to 20 years in prison and be fined up to \$250,000 if convicted.
Source: <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2012/07/23/hospital-worker-charged-with-stealing-patients-identities/>

For another story, see item [34](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *July 24, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Suspicious packages deemed no threat at Anschutz Medical campus.** Officials at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical campus in Aurora, Colorado, said two suspicious packages found on the campus July 23 were deemed no threat to students and faculty. “Because of the events of this past weekend, we wanted to be sure of the safety of the campus and make sure that they were not a threat,” said a spokeswoman for the university. “We brought in local authorities to look at the situation, they did just that, and they viewed it to be no threat.” One of the packages was sent to a faculty member, while the other was sent to the campus’ mail services. No classes were disrupted, but minor evacuations did take place, the spokeswoman said. The suspected shooter who is alleged to have killed 12 people at a nearby movie theater in Aurora was in the process of withdrawing from the school’s graduate program in neurosciences.
Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_21141459/suspicious-packages-deemed-no-threat-at-anchutz-medical
35. *July 24, UConn Today* – (Connecticut) **Avery Point campus reopens after public safety incident.** Connecticut State Police have taken over the investigation of a public safety incident that occurred late July 23 on the University of Connecticut’s Avery Point campus and ended early July 24 when a man reportedly died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The area was secured to ensure the safety of the campus community during overnight discussions with the unidentified man, who is not known to have an affiliation with the university. UConn Police alerted the community of the ongoing incident by using the University Alert Notification System. An alert banner was also activated on the UConn Web site to inform the community about the situation and the evacuation of Avery Point’s campus. UConn Police also worked with the director of Project Oceanology, a youth program being operated at the campus, to inform parents. The children were in a locked building guarded by police during the incident, which was on another part of the campus. Parents were given the option to pick up their children if they wished.

Source: <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2012/07/avery-point-campus-reopens-after-public-safety-incident/>

36. *July 24, WCAU 10 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI investigates threats against Villanova students.** The FBI and Radnor Township, Pennsylvania police are investigating threats against Villanova University students, WCAU 10 Philadelphia reported July 24. Radnor Township Police reports several calls have been made over the course of several days. The male caller allegedly claimed he was going to harm students on the college campus. “The University was informed by the Radnor Township Police Department that it received vague telephone threats concerning the University and that similar calls appear to have been placed by the same individual to other organizations throughout the country,” the Villanova vice president stated in an email sent to students, faculty, and staff July 23.
Source: <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/FBI-Investigates-Threats-Against-Villanova-Students--163495186.html>
37. *July 23, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **DHS breach prompts security changes.** The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) said it reviewed procedures after a woman bypassed security July 18 at its Grand Rapids, Michigan office and will institute changes as soon as it can. Court records show a woman threatened a DHS employee. Police confirmed she was angry because Child Protective Services removed one of her children from her custody. In a probable cause hearing, an officer said the woman rode the building’s elevator to the third floor with a custodian. The third floor is normally secured and only accessible by a key card swiped in the elevator. While on the third floor, police say the woman threatened to assault a case worker. The new changes DHS announced July 23 include the addition of an extra security guard on the third floor who will check identification and keep an eye out for people they do not recognize. “In talking with various case workers that work in that office, they’ve had on-going problems with security and threats,” said a spokesman for UAW Local 6000, the DHS union. He said the Grand Rapids office is missing some of the security measures found at other DHS branches. “Many of the branch offices for DHS around the state have metal detectors, and that particular location does not,” he said.
Source: http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/grand_rapids/dhs-cps-worker-threatened-officer-spat-on
38. *July 20, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Chemical scare: Salt Lake City child care center evacuated.** More than 100 children were evacuated July 20 from the Intermountain Child Development Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, after chemicals were spread throughout the building through an air conditioning system. Two adults felt ill after the evacuation and were evaluated by medical workers. Salt Lake City Fire Department authorities reported they were sent to the building on complaints of a chemical odor. After evacuating the building, a HAZMAT team found the chemicals Xylene and Toluene in the air. Authorities said roofers were on the building preparing to install a new roof. They had used an adhesive that contained those chemicals near a vent, and the vapors were sucked into the air conditioning system and distributed throughout the building. Firefighters determined the building should remain vacant for the rest of the

day, and fans were placed outside to help with ventilation.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54529554-78/building-chemicals-lake-salt.html.csp>

For more stories, see items [11](#), [12](#), [47](#),

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Emergency Services Sector

39. *July 23, Flaglerlive.com* – (Florida) **Minor fire at Flagler’s Emergency Operations Center forces evacuation of 911 dispatch.** A fire alarm went off July 23 at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center in Bunnell, Florida, where the sheriff’s office’s 9-1-1 dispatchers are located, and a small fire broke out, sending smoke through the floor. The four dispatchers were evacuated to a back-up dispatching center at the sheriff’s office headquarters. Only about eight other people were in the building at the time of the fire, which was brief, the Flagler County fire chief said. The fire broke out beneath the floor. The building’s fire extinguishing system — which entails the injection of an inert gas, not water sprinkler — went into action, suppressing the fire. Source: <http://flaglerlive.com/41553/eoc-911-fire/>

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Information Technology Sector

40. *July 24, V3.co.uk* – (International) **Grum botnet briefly returns from the dead.** The creators of the Grum botnet managed to briefly bring the spam network back from the dead before it was once again shut down. Security vendor FireEye reported the attempt to get the botnet back online took place July 23. “Over the weekend we found that the Ukrainian internet service provider (ISP) SteepHost removed the null route on three [command and control servers] that were taken down last week,” a FireEye researcher said. “We immediately noticed this change and contacted SteepHost once again. After hours of negotiations, they eventually shut down these CnCs once more.” Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2193786/grum-botnet-briefly-returns-from-the-dead>
41. *July 24, Technology Review* – (International) **The latest threat: A virus made just for you.** The Flashback computer virus gained notoriety earlier in 2012 as the first malware to make headway against Apple’s relatively untouched operating system, Mac OS X, infecting 600,000 victims’ machines at the peak of the outbreak. However, computer scientists and security professionals were more worried about another aspect of the malware. The authors of Flashback used a technique that Hollywood often employs to prevent movie and music files from being copied — they added functions that bound the virus to each infected system. The use of that technique prevented security companies from running the virus in their labs. New research shows that a refinement to the technique could make automated analysis of malware nearly impossible.

Source: <http://www.technologyreview.com/news/428557/the-latest-threat-a-virus-made-just-for-you/>

42. *July 24, New Hampshire Union Leader* – (New Hampshire) **Acid spill forces evacuation of homes in Laconia.** Approximately a dozen homes near ABC Fabricators in the downtown area of Laconia, New Hampshire, were evacuated July 24 after an acid spill. About 250 gallons of nitric acid were believed to have spilled at the factory. Since 1979, ABC Fabricators has been specializing in the manufacture of electronic circuit boards, according to online information about the company.
Source: <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20120724/NEWS07/707249917>
43. *July 23, The Register* – (International) **Skype: Nearly half of adults don't install software updates.** A new survey commissioned by Skype reveals that 40 percent of adults do not always update their software when prompted to do so, and that 25 percent skip software updates because they think they offer no real benefit. The survey was offered on Skype's behalf to 350,000 individuals in the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany by Internet pollster YouGov. A quarter of the adults surveyed said they did not understand the benefits of software updates or what they were supposed to do. About the same number said they did not know how to check for updates, and another quarter said they would need to be prompted to upgrade their software at least twice before they would do it. The respondents gave various reasons for shying away from updates. Some said they expected new versions of software would have "lots of bugs" or would crash too often, while others said they thought the updates would slow down their computers. More than a quarter of respondents said the process of updating their software just takes too long. Forty-five percent of survey participants said they did not upgrade their software because they worry about the security of their computers.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/07/23/skype_software_update_survey/
44. *July 23, Reuters* – (International) **Web-connected industrial controls stoke security fears.** Until several days ago, anyone who researched the security of industrial control systems could have accessed the Web site of a Kansas agricultural concern and turned off all its windmills. The owner left the system connected to the open Internet without any password protections, despite warnings from Canadian manufacturer Endurance Wind Power. A cyber researcher found the vulnerability along with thousands of other exposed industrial controls, many of them in critical facilities. The research that found the lapse came from one of two new studies on the security of industrial controls that were provided to Reuters in advance of their public release at the Black Hat security conference being held the week of July 23 in Las Vegas. The research buttress concerns that critical national infrastructure in the West is more vulnerable to hacking attacks now than 2 years ago, despite its status as a top cybersecurity priority for the White House, and other parts of the federal government.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/23/us-blackhat-industrialcontrols-idUSBRE86M14R20120723>
45. *July 23, Forbes* – (International) **Eight million email addresses and passwords spilled from gaming site Gamigo months after hacker breach.** Four months after the gaming site Gamigo warned users about a hacker intrusion that accessed some portions

of its users' credentials, more than 8 million usernames, emails, and encrypted passwords from the site were published on the Web, according to the data breach alert service PwnedList. The half-gigabyte collection of stolen user data was posted to the password-cracking forum Inside Pro earlier in July, where it remained online until the week of July 16. Though the passwords were not initially posted in a readable form, they may still be compromised.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2012/07/23/eight-million-passwords-spilled-from-gaming-site-gamigo-months-after-breach/>

46. *July 23, ZDNet* – (International) **Hacker on Apple's iOS in-app purchase fix: 'Game is over'**. During the week of July 9 a Russian developer hacked Apple's In-App Purchase program for all devices running iOS 3.0 or later, allowing iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch users to circumvent the payment process and essentially steal in-app content. Apple confirmed the workaround and the week of July 16 announced a temporary fix and that it would patch the holes with the release of iOS 6. July 23, the developer declared Apple's solution indeed stops his hack. In the meantime, he said the "service will still remain operational until iOS 6 comes out." Furthermore, the researcher was still working on the Mac in-app purchase hack he disclosed the week of July 16.

Source: <http://www.zdnet.com/hacker-on-apples-ios-in-app-purchase-fix-game-is-over-7000001409/>

47. *July 23, Dark Reading* – (International) **Using chip malfunction to leak private keys**. Many financial institutions and other security-conscious organizations rely on RSA authentication to not only authenticate users are who they say they are, but also the other way around — to assure users they are interacting with their vendor's Web site rather than a spoof. Fundamental to this encrypted method of assurance is that the RSA private key held by the secured organization always remains a secret. The week of July 23 at the Black Hat security conference, a researcher from University of Michigan will show how small electrical malfunctions in server processor chips can make it possible for attackers to secretly glean the contents of an entire private key.

Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/identity-and-access-management/167901114/security/news/240004213/>

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Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

48. *July 23, Jefferson Post* – (North Carolina) **SkyLine corrects Internet service outages.** Internet outages plagued much of Ashe and Alleghany counties in North Carolina July 19, according to information released by local Internet service provider SkyLine Membership Corporation. Service was restored to those areas impacted by the outage later that day, with only limited intermittent Internet issues remaining in parts of Ashe and Alleghany counties, read a press release issued July 20, by a SkyLine public relations administrator. According to SkyLine, network equipments issues were to blame for the service interruptions and outages, which created a “cascading instability in other parts of the network,” which disrupted Internet, TV, and some voice services across the five-county SkyLine/SkyBest service area, though the public relations administrator said the majority of the company’s customers were not impacted. Source: http://www.jeffersonpost.com/view/full_story/19540360/article-SkyLine-corrects-Internet-service-outages

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Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *July 24, Associated Press* – (National) **At least 3 men arrested in separate ‘Dark Knight’ incidents at movie theaters.** At least three men across the country who are accused of making threats during or after watching the new Batman movie have been arrested in separate incidents, the Associated Press reported July 24. Movie goers in Sierra Vista, Arizona, panicked when a man who appeared intoxicated was confronted during a showing of the movie. The Cochise County Sheriff’s office said it caused “mass hysteria” and about 50 people fled the theater. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct and threatening and intimidating. A Maine man was arrested when he told authorities he was on his way to shoot a former employer a day after watching “The Dark Knight Rises,” Maine State police said July 23. The suspect had been stopped for speeding, and a police search of his car found an AK-47 assault weapon, four handguns, ammunition, and news clippings about the mass shooting that left 12 people dead July 20, authorities said. In southern California, a man at a July 22 showing of the film was arrested after witnesses said he made threats and alluded to the Colorado shooting when the movie did not start. Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputies were called to a cinema complex in Norwalk after movie goers said the suspect shouted: “I should go off like in Colorado.” They said he then asked: “Does anybody have a gun?” A security guard saw the suspect with a backpack on his knees in the second row, but deputies who searched the bag, the theater, and its surrounding area did not find any weapon. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/07/24/at-least-3-men-arrested-in-separate-dark-knight-incidents-at-movie-theaters/>

50. *July 24, KDAF 33 Dallas* – (Texas) **Police: Man accidentally sets off gun inside Walmart store.** Dallas police said a man was in custody July 24 after he accidentally discharged his gun at a Walmart. They said the incident happened July 23. The suspect reportedly reached for his wallet and set off the gun in his pocket. He was injured in the shooting, and police said fragments hit a child and a woman. Reports said none of those involved were seriously hurt. Police said the suspect ran from the store after he was confronted by an off-duty officer, and after a brief foot chase, was taken into custody. As of July 24, police said the suspect was charged with evading arrest with a bond set at \$1,000. He could also be charged with injury to a child.
Source: <http://www.the33tv.com/news/kdaf-texas-man-accidentally-sets-off-gun-inside-walmart-store-20120724,0,3606464.story>
51. *July 24, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Fire forces evacuation of 8-story commercial building.** A basement electrical fire forced the evacuation of a large commercial building in south Boston July 23, a fire official said. A Boston Fire Department spokesman said the fire in an eight-story building in the Marine Industrial Park started when an electrical cable in the basement began smoldering. He said a large section of the building was evacuated. Damage was contained to the basement and was estimated at \$50,000. It was unclear how the cable caught fire.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2012/07/24/fire_forces_evacuation_of_8_story_commercial_building/
52. *July 23, Forbes* – (International) **Hacker will expose potential security flaw in four million hotel room keycard locks.** A software developer and a security researcher presented a pair of vulnerabilities he discovered in hotel room locks from the manufacturer Onity, whose devices are installed on the doors of between 4 and 5 million hotel rooms around the world according to the company's figures, Forbes reported July 23. Using an open-source hardware gadget, he can insert a plug into the lock's DC port and in some cases open the lock in a matter of seconds. However, on three Onity locks installed on hotel doors he tested at well-known independent and franchise hotels in New York, the results were mixed; only one of the three opened, and even that one only worked on the second try. Even with an unreliable method, this proved real flaws in Onity's security architecture. The locks cannot be simply upgraded with new firmware to fix the problem. New circuit boards will have to be installed in every affected lock, a logistical nightmare if millions of locks prove to be vulnerable.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2012/07/23/hacker-will-expose-potential-security-flaw-in-more-than-four-million-hotel-room-keycard-locks/>
53. *July 23, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Police seek movie-goer who yelled 'Bomb!' at Waterfront theater.** West Homestead police in Pennsylvania requested the public's help to identify a movie-goer who yelled "Bomb!" during a crowded showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" at The Waterfront July 22, sending patrons rushing to the exits. The exclamation was made amid a pair of minor scuffles. However, the commotion started with a fight over a restroom stall and another argument in the VIP section of the theater. The suspect involved in the restroom stall incident was charged with disorderly conduct, harassment, and simple assault.

Meanwhile, a scuffle among two women was unfolding in the VIP section of Theater 12, police told KDKA 2 Pittsburgh. As the trouble continued, a man ran out screaming, “Bomb,” which prompted movie-goers to scramble for the exits. One person was taken to the hospital with a leg injury.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-south/police-waterfront-fight-during-dark-knight-rises-began-with-rude-child-645858/>

54. *July 23, Lake News Online* – (Missouri) **Fire destroys lodge at Windermere.** Fire destroyed a lodge at the Windermere Baptist Conference Center in Roach, Missouri, July 22. The Mid-County Fire Protection District responded to a commercial structure fire at the Whispering Oak Lodge, a two-story building with eight lodging units and the laundry facility for Windermere. When firefighters arrived, the lodge was fully engulfed and had flames shooting 30 feet from the roof. The State fire marshal was called in to help the Mid-County Fire Protection District fire marshal with the investigation. The cause of the fire was deemed accidental due to a mechanical failure in a dryer unit located on the lower level. The 7,200 square foot facility was a total loss with additional damage sustained at a second maintenance building with data and communication equipment inside.

Source: <http://www.lakewsonline.com/news/x1400284108/Fire-destroys-lodge-at-Windermere>

55. *July 23, Food Safety News* – (Colorado) **60 hospitalized in Denver after eating charity dinner.** At least 60 people were hospitalized after eating at a Denver homeless shelter July 22. Less than an hour after eating a turkey dinner served at the Denver Rescue Mission, dozens of meal recipients began to vomit and became dehydrated from fluid loss. Emergency responders were called to Denver Rescue Mission’s Lawrence Street Shelter — where the meal was served — and to the Samaritan House across the street where some people who had eaten the meal were staying. A total of 54 people from the Lawrence Street Shelter and 6 from the Samaritan House were taken to the hospital, said a Denver Rescue Mission representative. Many of those who ate the meal were not staying at either shelter, meaning other homeless individuals in the Denver area may also be sick. The exact source of the food poisoning remained unclear, said health officials. While turkey was the main course, mashed potatoes and vegetables were also served and have not been ruled out as possible contamination sources. Denver Rescue Mission said it is possible the food that made people ill was given to the shelter as a donation.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/07/60-hospitalized-in-denver-after-eating-charity-dinner/>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

56. *July 24, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **Storms blow up Longhorn Complex fires.** Fires burning on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, grew to

38,976 total acres July 23 with 25 percent containment, according to a fire information officer for the Rocky Mountain Area Incident Management Team. The rough July 22 weather also blew up the Iron Shell Fire to 36,887 acres and took outbuildings with it, the officer said. Lightning from the storm also started the 425-acre South Crazy Horse Fire, she said. The Longhorn Complex fire initially began July 19 as four separate lightning-caused fires that merged into two fires, the Beads Creek Fire and the Longhorn Fire. Lightning started a third fire, the Iron Shell Fire, and the fourth fire, the South Crazy Horse Fire July 22. About 100 residents from the Upper Cut Meat community were allowed to return home July 23 after the extreme fire behavior forced evacuations. The Iron Shell and South Crazy Horse fires continued to force evacuations of 50 residences in the Spring Creek community, the officer said. Fire officials in the southwestern part of the State were wrapping up the Myrtle Fire, about 1 mile east of Pringle. The fire gained about 1,000 acres July 22 from burnout operations but remained at 10,080 acres July 23, another fire officer with the Rocky Mountain Area Incident Management Team said. The fire was at 75 percent containment, with full containment expected by the end of July 24, he said. So far, fighting the Myrtle Fire has cost \$3.2 million, according to a news release from fire officials. The fire burned 18 buildings on the historic Williams Ranch, he said.

Source: http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/storms-blow-up-longhorn-complex-fires/article_d5117201-29be-5587-ad51-aafb2f79572.html

57. *July 24, United Press International* – (Arizona; Nebraska) **Crews battle wildfires in Neb., Ariz.** A Nebraska grass fire that destroyed thousands of acres was moving at up to 45 miles per hour, fueled by searing temperatures and gusting winds, officials said. A U.S. Forest Service official estimated the size of the fire has been halved from 100,000 acres to 80,000 acres, the Lincoln Journal Star reported July 24. Lightning was suspected as the cause of the fire that started July 23 and moved quickly through the forests and grassland along the Niobrara River. The village of Meadville was evacuated and the small community of Sparks may also be put under an evacuation order, an Ainsworth fire chief told KBRB 1400 AM Ainsworth. In Arizona, at least eight wildfires were burning west of the Kaibab Plateau near the Grand Canyon. The fires, dubbed the West Side Complex, had burned 2,781 acres as of July 24, the Arizona Republic reported. Lightning was also suspected in the Arizona fires, officials said. The largest fire in the complex, the Tank Fire, was about 50 percent contained July 23.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/07/24/Crews-battle-wildfires-in-Neb-Ariz/UPI-25951343131392/

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Dams Sector

58. *July 24, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps of Engineers testing levee ‘armor’.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to launch a pilot program aimed at finding the best way to protect the crown and side of rebuilt earthen levees from erosion caused when they are overtopped by storm surges, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported July 24. The Corps determined the best way to “armor” the levees is to install “high performance turf reinforcement mats.” The plastic fabric sheets must be

anchored to the levee in a way that guarantees they will not be ripped up and damaged by mowing equipment and must be designed so they are not damaged by rutting from wheels of mowing tractors or other equipment. The armoring is part of a Corps strategy to design the levees rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina to withstand the conditions that caused the old levees to fail in 2005. Also, unlike during Katrina, it would mean surge waters would stop entering the city when the water level drops below the top of the levees. Many other methods are being used to increase the resilience of the rebuilt levee system. In St. Bernard Parish, for example, stronger inverted T-walls are built atop earthen levees, with sheet piling installed beneath their centers. H-shaped pilings are driven diagonally to greater depths beneath the inverted T part of the wall to add stability. Along most of the new and rebuilt floodwalls, contractors installed concrete splash guards to reduce the eroding power of overtopping water. In some areas, contractors mixed cement with soil, to increase the strength of earthen levee foundations, or built a complex series of wells and drainage systems, to redirect water that might seep beneath the levees.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2012/07/corps_of_engineers_testing_lev.html

59. *July 24, Xinhua* – (International) **Three Gorges Dam prepares for high waters.** The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydropower project on the Yangtze River in China, was set to experience its largest flood peak July 24, according to the Yangtze River flood control and drought relief headquarters. The dam was set to experience water flow rates as high as 70,000 cubic meters per second. The flow rate steadily increased since July 22 and was expected to keep climbing, with more rain expected in the river's upper reaches. In preparation for the surging flows of water, local authorities in Hubei and Hu'nan provinces launched level-3 emergency response procedures. Over 36,000 personnel were on alert. China's flood control authority issued an emergency notice July 23 ordering local authorities to prepare for a possible flood.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/video/2012-07/24/c_131734934.htm

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